

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 3-5, 7 and 9 have been amended and claims 10-20 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A *Lactobacillus casei* species having the properties described in (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) below:

(1) The species can be grown in the presence of any of one to four amino acids as a nitrogen source necessary for growth;

(2) When a growth-promoting culture medium is inoculated with the species and *Escherichia coli* in the same count and subjected to anaerobic mixed culturing at 37°C, the final count of lactobacilli is 50% or more of the coliform count;

(3) Upon cultivation in an appropriate culture medium, the final pH value is 4.0 or below, and the highest acidity is 1.5% or more;

(4) The species is resistant to 5% bile salts;

(5) The species produces an antibiotic.

Claim 2 (original): A *Lactobacillus casei* species having at least one of the following properties in addition to the properties listed in Claim 1:

(a) Has resistance to widely-used antibiotics;

(b) Has amylolytic ability;

- (c) Promotes the growth of chlorella;
- (d) Grows at temperatures in the range of 5°C to 45°C;
- (e) Grows at pH values in the range of pH 4.0 to pH 10.0;
- (f) Can also grow under any oxygen pressure.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The *Lactobacillus casei* species according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said *Lactobacillus casei* species is FERM BP-10059 (FERM P-19443).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A living body activating lactobacillus preparation having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1 as a primary active ingredient.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1 as a primary active ingredient.

Claim 6 (original): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 5, wherein the preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 5 contains an antibiotic.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 5 [[or 6]], which is applied to an affected area in the treatment of periodontal disease after the affected area is disinfected with a bactericidal disinfectant.

Claim 8 (original): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 7, wherein said bactericidal disinfectant is a bactericidal disinfectant containing 500 to 1,500 ppm of ferric ions, 500 to 2,000 ppm of L-ascorbic acid and 200

to 2,000 ppm of one or two of sorbic acid, benzoic acid and paraoxybenzoic acid ester as principal components.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The living body activating lactobacillus preparation or preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to ~~any one of Claims 4 through 8~~ claim 4, wherein said *Lactobacillus casei* species is FERM BP-10059 (FERM P-19443).

Claim 10 (new): The *Lactobacillus casei* species according to Claim 2, wherein said *Lactobacillus casei* species is FERM BP-10059 (FERM P-19443).

Claim 11 (new): A living body activating lactobacillus preparation having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to claim 2 as a primary active ingredient.

Claim 12 (new): A living body activating lactobacillus preparation having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to claim 3 as a primary active ingredient.

Claim 13 (new): A preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to claim 2 as a primary active ingredient.

Claim 14 (new): A preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to claim 3 as a primary active ingredient.

Claim 15 (new): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 6, which is applied to an affected area in the treatment of periodontal disease after the affected area is disinfected with a bactericidal disinfectant.

Claim 16 (new): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 13, which is applied to an affected area in the treatment of periodontal disease after the affected area is disinfected with a bactericidal disinfectant.

Claim 17 (new): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 14, which is applied to an affected area in the treatment of periodontal disease after the affected area is disinfected with a bactericidal disinfectant.

Claim 18 (new): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 15, wherein said bactericidal disinfectant is a bactericidal disinfectant containing 500 to 1,500 ppm of ferric ions, 500 to 2,000 ppm of L-ascorbic acid and 200 to 2,000 ppm of one or two of sorbic acid, benzoic acid and paraoxybenzoic acid ester as principal components.

Claim 19 (new): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 16, wherein said bactericidal disinfectant is a bactericidal disinfectant containing 500 to 1,500 ppm of ferric ions, 500 to 2,000 ppm of L-ascorbic acid and 200 to 2,000 ppm of one or two of sorbic acid, benzoic acid and paraoxybenzoic acid ester as principal components.

Claim 20 (new): The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 17, wherein said bactericidal disinfectant is a bactericidal disinfectant containing 500 to 1,500 ppm of ferric ions, 500 to 2,000 ppm of L-ascorbic acid and 200 to 2,000 ppm of one or two of sorbic acid, benzoic acid and paraoxybenzoic acid ester as principal components.